



CONCLUSION:

A Call to Action

We have the brainpower, the cultural resources, the economic vitality, and the human spirit to create real change.

At first glance, the Vision described in this document may sound like yet another attempt by dreamers and do-gooders to reinvent our city. Planning for a more inclusive future might seem like the right thing to do but too big a challenge to tackle head on.

But DC has what it takes. We have the resources in this city to actually achieve this goal. We have the brainpower, the cultural resources, the economic vitality, and the human spirit to create real change. We have a legacy of grass roots decision-making and a commitment to social equity. As the nation's capital, cities across America should look to us as a model of what can be.

The question is not whether we can create an inclusive city, but whether we have the will to make it happen.

A Vision Becomes a Reality: The Anacostia Waterfront is Transformed

The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative

The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) illustrates how the principles outlined in this Vision can help us grow more inclusively. Through a series of bold and exciting moves, the AWI will create successful neighborhoods, increase access to education and jobs, and connect the whole city.

The Anacostia River was pivotal to the birth of our city. Yet over the years its 14-mile shoreline became our city's most underutilized resource. An innovative partnership between the Federal and DC governments, residents, businesses, and other institutions is now underway to put the riverfront back on the map. In the decades ahead, it will be transformed into a world-class waterfront that rivals San Francisco, Boston, and Chicago.



By implementing the AWI, we will:

CREATE SUCCESSFUL NEIGHBORHOODS

The AWI will create strong new waterfront neighborhoods on both sides of the Anacostia River. New mixed income housing will create affordable rental and ownership opportunities for DC residents. New shops, restaurants, and public facilities will create dynamic neighborhood centers. New neighborhood parks and open spaces will provide much-needed places to play and enjoy nature. The rise of these neighborhoods will lift adjacent neighborhoods to new prosperity and pride.

INCREASE ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The AWI will bring economic opportunities to thousands of DC residents. It will provide new locations for schools, colleges, and institutions. More than 25 sites for new museums and monuments will attract visitors beyond the National Mall. The potential for millions of square feet of office and retail space will be created in new riverfront business districts, generating jobs and expanding our tax base.

CONNECT THE WHOLE CITY

The Anacostia River will become DC's great common ground. It will connect the city with distinct new public spaces, parks, bridges, and infrastructure. This is perhaps the most unique public benefit of the AWI. Established neighborhoods will be connected to the riverfront by new trails and the removal of access barriers. More than 1,800 acres of open space along the river will unify east and west and provide amenities for the entire city to enjoy.



If we heal our river and rebuild our waterfront, we can connect our city east and west. We can bridge the divides between neighborhoods, jobs, and people.

ALL THREE CHALLENGES WILL BE ADDRESSED AS:

A. The Southwest Waterfront becomes a more dynamic neighborhood, with 800 new homes, more than 550,000 square feet of retail, office, and cultural space, 400 new hotel rooms, and waterfront promenades and plazas.

B. A new signature bridge helps transform the South Capitol Street corridor into a great urban boulevard, creating a dramatic work of art and engineering while improving connections across the Anacostia River.

C. Near Southeast emerges as a vibrant residential and commercial center, with up to 4,000 new homes and 20,000 new jobs for DC residents and others, along with new parks and open spaces that people from across the city can enjoy.

D. Poplar Point is redeveloped as a new neighborhood, with over 1,000 new residences, up to 800,000 square feet of cultural facilities, and new riverfront gathering places.

E. A new light rail line connects DC residents to new job centers east of the river and Downtown.

F. New gateways across the Anacostia are created, catalyzing investment on both sides of the river and improving access to the shoreline.

G. Reservation 13 becomes a new city neighborhood with 800 new homes and 1.6 million square feet of office, health care, and public facilities.

H. Kingman and Heritage Islands are restored, and water quality and wetland improvements provide a cleaner and more active river.

I. A new 20-mile riverfront trail makes the riverfront safe and welcoming to pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, other programs are moving us closer to becoming a more inclusive city

STRATEGIC NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLANS (SNAPS) have empowered residents and provided a tool for citizens to prioritize improvements in their neighborhoods.

THE HOME AGAIN PROGRAM is helping to restore abandoned buildings, preserve historic row houses, create affordable housing, and provide home ownership opportunities for residents.

THE RESTORE DC PROGRAM is assisting small businesses, breathing new life into neighborhood shopping districts, and providing retail services and jobs for DC residents.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES INITIATIVE (NSI) is forging partnerships between residents and District agencies to make all of our neighborhoods clean, safe, and healthy.

THE STRATEGIC NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SNIP) is prioritizing investments in our neighborhoods and leveraging private investment with public funds in emerging areas.

THE TRANSFORMATION SCHOOLS INITIATIVE is helping to modernize our schools, revitalize neighborhoods, and create new community anchors.

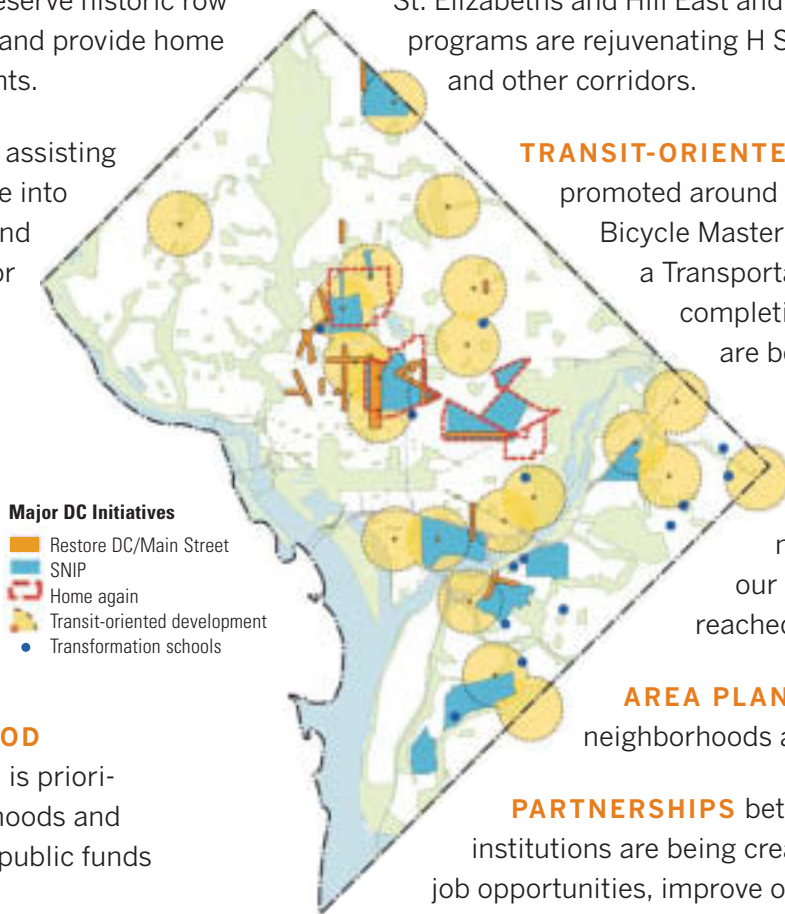
NEW NEIGHBORHOODS are being planned in places like St. Elizabeths and Hill East and commercial revitalization programs are rejuvenating H Street NE, Georgia Avenue NW, and other corridors.

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT is being promoted around our Metro stations, a new Bicycle Master Plan has been completed, a Transportation Vision Plan is nearing completion, and new light rail lines are being studied.

A COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING STRATEGY is being developed to promote affordable housing and our Housing Trust Fund has reached an all-time high.

AREA PLANS are being developed for neighborhoods across the city.

PARTNERSHIPS between the City and anchor institutions are being created to link residents to job opportunities, improve our schools, and expand neighborhood services.



This Vision provides a framework to expand upon these initiatives. As noted in the Introduction, the Vision will be used to guide a revision of our Comprehensive Plan. That is an important step in the journey toward a more inclusive city.

But the Vision should also be used to guide other long-range planning programs, and it should provide the foundation for new City initiatives. The Vision should be used to encourage institutions across the city—from colleges to hospitals—to become neighborhood champions. It should be used to make social equity a goal not only in the District of Columbia but across the Washington region.

We must work together to succeed

Planning for a more inclusive city is not a new concept. In fact, some of Washington's previous plans had similar aims. One of the obstacles to progress has been a lack of continuity between our plans and the day-to-day decisions that affect how our city grows.

A vision for growing inclusively must include:

LINKING OUR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DECISIONS TO CITY PLANS. The investment of public dollars in infrastructure and public facilities should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. If our Plan envisions a more inclusive city, our city's capital improvement program should guide us there.

LINKING OUR LONG-RANGE PLANS. The recent assessment of the existing Comprehensive Plan found that the city needed to do more to link long-range plans prepared by different agencies. The Transportation Vision Plan, the Parks Master Plan, and other long-range plans should be aligned with the Vision and Comprehensive Plan to guide the city toward more inclusive growth.

A STRONGER LINK BETWEEN PLANNING AND ZONING. Many of the objectives in this report—from the equitable siting of special needs homes to increased densities around transit stations—will be achieved through zoning decisions. Growing more inclusively means strengthening the link between planning and zoning, so that zoning decisions effectively implement the Comprehensive Plan Map and policies.

COORDINATING DISTRICT AND FEDERAL PLANNING. There are many issues that are important to both Federal and District interests. Coordination between the National Capital Planning Commission and District government can help achieve common goals.

The reality is that we must all work together and contribute our time to this cause. For this reason, the last few pages of this document provide information on what you can do to make DC a more inclusive city. Please take a moment to look this over and take on the cause that you care about most.



Actions taken by the DC Council, our City's legislative body, can help move us closer to becoming an inclusive city.

How You Can Help

At the Citywide Level

At the citywide level, you can help to update the policies that move us closer to becoming an inclusive city by:

GETTING INVOLVED IN THE DISTRICT'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISION. The Comprehensive Plan is the legal document that defines how land in our city will be used. It sets local policies on topics such as housing, environmental quality, economic development, and transportation. You can become involved in this effort, which began in Spring 2004 and will continue for approximately two years.

To learn about upcoming meetings and add your name to the mailing list, please call Jill Diskan at the DC Office of Planning at 442-7600. You can also e-mail her at Jill.Diskan@dc.gov.



You can help by participating in Comprehensive Plan meetings...

To Create Successful Neighborhoods

Creating successful neighborhoods will take hard work and a commitment by you and your neighbors. This means never losing sight of the goal to be inclusive as you contemplate and debate projects in your neighborhood. It also means volunteering your time by:

HELPING TO PROTECT THE HISTORIC RESOURCES in your neighborhood. You can work with local historic preservation groups to help ensure that important historic buildings are protected or rehabilitated. If you live in an historic house, rowhouse neighborhood, or historic district, you can help by learning more about your neighborhood's history. You can also do your part by maintaining the historic character of your house.

To learn more about how to help, please call the Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Division at 442-8800.

ADVOCATING FOR MIXED INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS THE CITY AND IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD. While many people fear change, creating a stronger income mix across our neighborhoods is critical if we are truly to become more inclusive. We encourage you to learn more about the value of mixed income neighborhoods and to publicly support mixed income housing development as we move forward.

To learn more about housing issues and to get involved in advocating for mixed income and affordable housing call the Department of Housing and Community Development at 442-7200.



improving your historic home...

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY BY HELPING TO HOUSE PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. Your help is needed to work with the District government, non-profit groups and others that are trying to locate homes for people with special needs. This means becoming involved and helping to come up with creative solutions on how and where to locate special needs housing and services within your neighborhood.

To get involved and become a leader on this issue, call the Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth, Families, and Elders at 727-8001.

CLEANING UP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND OPEN SPACES. Follow the example of volunteers at Watts Branch in Northeast Washington by dedicating time to improve a park you care about.

Call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 673-7647. To learn how you can help clean and green our parks and open spaces, you can also call Washington Parks and People at 462-7275 or Green Spaces DC at 673-7663.

REVITALIZING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR. Work with other neighbors and local small business owners to revitalize your neighborhood's older, traditional business district. ReStore DC provides technical assistance, training workshops, seminars, publications, and limited financial assistance to help you enhance your local shopping area.

For more information on revitalizing your neighborhood's business district, call ReStore DC at 727-5208.



cleaning up our open spaces...



reviving a local shopping street...



and planting trees in your neighborhood.

How You Can Help

To Increase Access to Education and Employment

Increasing access to education and employment means helping your fellow residents learn the skills that will help them become successful. You can help by:

TUTORING A CHILD OR AN ADULT with limited writing or reading skills. It really will “take a village” to turn around our education system. Not only will your work make a difference in someone’s life, you will find it to be a rewarding experience for yourself.

Call the Office of Volunteers at DC Public Schools at 442-5635 for more information on how you can volunteer.

ADOPTING A LOCAL SCHOOL. If you work for a local institution—a non-profit, a church, the Federal government, an international organization, or a university or college—your help is needed. As the experience of Georgetown University and Ron Brown Middle School reveals, a little help can go a long way.

Call the Office of Volunteers at DC Public Schools at 442-5635 for more information on how you can volunteer.

TEACHING DC ADULTS new skills through an apprenticeship program. Call your employer and find out whether an apprenticeship program exists. Find out how you can participate and help local residents learn the skills necessary to find a job in your field. If you are an employer and do not have such a program, call and find out how to get started.

Contact the Office of Apprenticeship Programs at the Department of Employment Services, 698-5099.

LINKING YOUR EMPLOYER WITH A SPECIALTY HIGH SCHOOL.

If you work in one of these areas...

- Agriculture and natural sciences
- Arts, media, and communications
- Business and finance
- Construction and development
- Health and medical sciences
- Hospitality and tourism
- Public service (District or Federal government)
- Sales, service, and entrepreneurship
- Technology and manufacturing
- Transportation

...our local high school students could benefit from your experience and wisdom. Volunteering could mean sharing your experiences in the classroom, creating an internship opportunity, or mentoring children.

Call the Office of Volunteers at DCPS at 442-5635 for more information on how you can volunteer.

SHOPPING IN YOUR CITY. While government officials and many others are working hard to bring more retail into the city, your decisions to shop locally will make a big difference in generating the demand for retail stores and the accompanying revenue for our city. Instead of driving to Virginia or Maryland, buy locally and help stores and shops stay in DC.

To learn what stores and shops are in DC, call the DC Chamber of Commerce at 347-7201.



You can help by tutoring a child...



teaching an adult new skills...



shopping in DC...

To Connect the Whole City

Connecting the whole city means much more than the government investing in public infrastructure. It will also take hard work and commitment by you and your neighbors by:

PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC MEETINGS about transportation improvements, such as new bridges and light rail lines. Your input can shape how and where these improvements are made.

For more information, contact the District of Columbia’s Information Line for DC Transit Alternatives at 669-8098.

INSTALLING BIKE RACKS in front of your place of work. This will help encourage workers and visitors to bicycle to your destination.

For information on getting a bicycle rack, call the City’s Bicycle Program Coordinator at 671-2331.

GETTING INVOLVED IN REGIONAL ISSUES that affect our city. Share your views on upcoming transportation projects with the City Council and Mayoral representatives that serve on the Council of Governments’ Transportation Planning Board.

Call COG at 962-3200 to find out more about upcoming agendas.

IMPROVING THE ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT. Learn more about the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative, which has brought together 20 Federal and District agencies to transform the Anacostia waterfront into a gem that will rival any urban waterfront in the world.

To learn more about plans to create a vibrant waterfront, call the DC Office of Planning at 442-7600. To volunteer to help transform this hidden gem, call the Anacostia Watershed Society at (301) 699-6204.

VISITING AND PROMOTING THE FORT CIRCLE PARKS. There are multiple ways to volunteer your time to this cause, starting with visiting the park nearest to your home. Your help is needed so that more DC residents become aware of this wonderful historic asset.

Please call the National Park Service at 690-5185 to learn how you can help make a difference.

ADVOCATING FOR VOTING RIGHTS for the District of Columbia. The US capital—the beacon of democracy—is the only place in the country where people do not have voting rights in Congress. Get involved in the cause to give DC a vote.

To donate your time to this cause, call DC Vote at 462-6000 or Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton’s office at 225-8050.



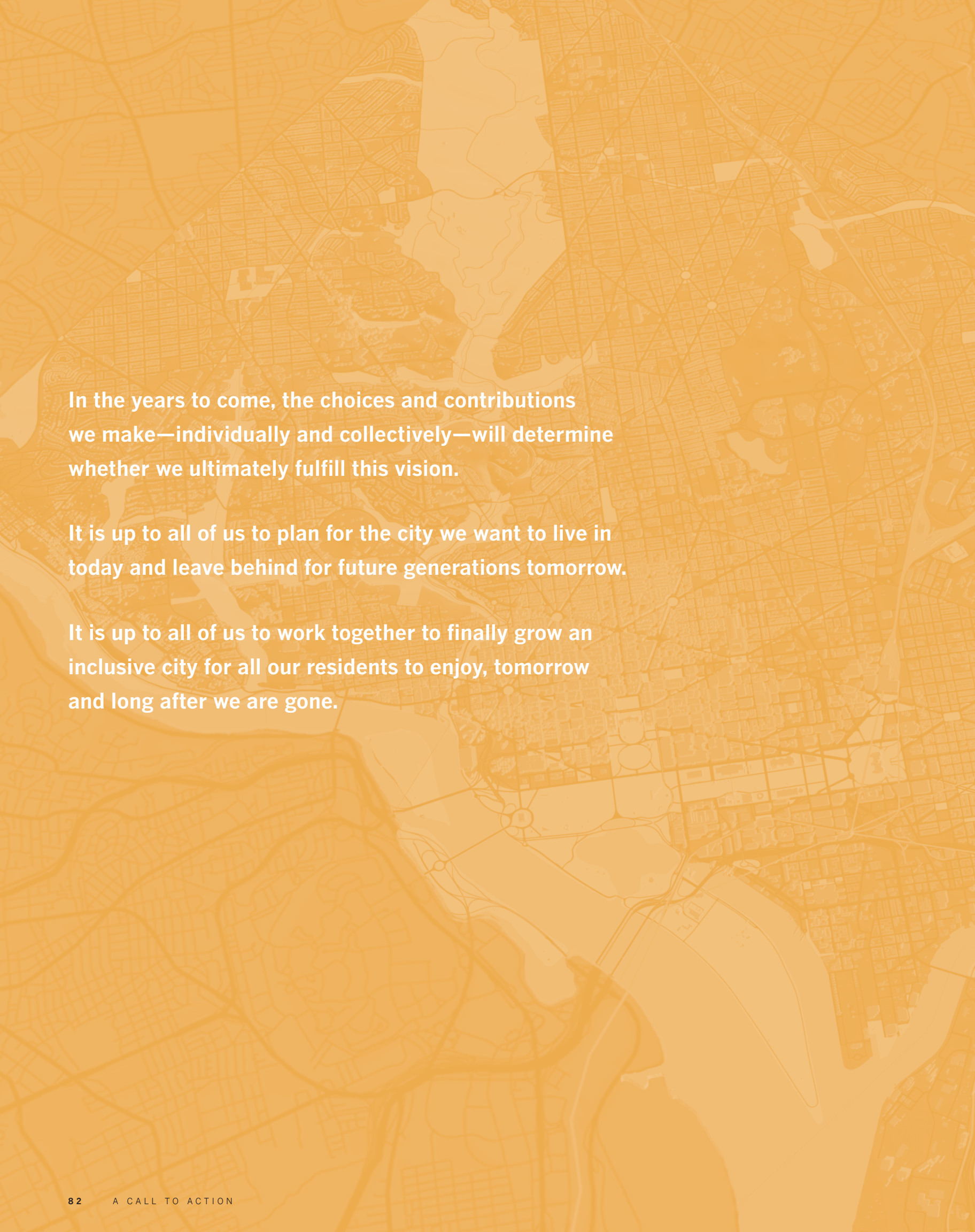
participating in public meetings...



installing bike racks...



and visiting our Fort Circle parks.



In the years to come, the choices and contributions we make—individually and collectively—will determine whether we ultimately fulfill this vision.

It is up to all of us to plan for the city we want to live in today and leave behind for future generations tomorrow.

It is up to all of us to work together to finally grow an inclusive city for all our residents to enjoy, tomorrow and long after we are gone.